

Thursday Afternoon, December 30, 1952

Cuban Refugee Says . . . Political Motivation Was Key To Castro Success

A Cuban political refugee told a newsman, told the Kiwanis Club the Gulfport civic club Wednesday Cuban government would collapse "political motivation" and a not if Prime Minister Castro died or social problems was the key to the was otherwise removed from power success of Fidel Castro's regime.

Frank Barte, former president of Consolidated Railroads of Cuba, now a refugee leader in New Or-

cept that Castro rose to power on the crest of a social upheaval.

He said Cuba had made constant progress since gaining its independence and Cuban workers "were fully protected," in many respects to a greater extent than United States workers.

Barte came to the United States after his firm, a holding company with 10,000 workers and assets of \$100-million, was confiscated in 1940.

He quoted from a list of 14 various benefits which he said were enjoyed by most Cuban

workers. Barte said emotions played a big role in Castro's rise to power. "Everyone was willing to overthrow Batista," Barte noted, and said Castro represented a rallying point. Barte said it was too late when Castro's real intentions were learned.

Cuban underground sources are convinced there are still Russian missiles within Cuba. Barte said.

He estimated 300,000 Cubans are now in exile as political refugees from the Castro government. Of the national population

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The Daily Herald, Biloxi and Gulfport, Mississippi Coast—ALIVE

<p>of 7,600,000, Bartes estimated 10 per cent or 760,000 Cubans are devout Castro supporters.</p> <p>Cuban exile circles were generally disappointed, Bartes said, when the recent crisis did not result in an outright invasion. "We are impatient," he explained. He said such an invasion would have strong endorsement.</p> <p>In a note of warning concerning Castro's take-over of Cuba, Bartes said:</p> <p>"It may happen in any place in the world, even in your own country. Maybe not by revolution, but</p>	<p>by evolution."</p> <p>Bartes, who now operates a washateria, headed a holding company formed by the Guantanamo & Western, Cuban Northern and Cuba railroad companies.</p> <p>The list of worker benefits Bartes said Cubans enjoyed were:</p> <p>A maximum eight-hour working day; a maximum work week of 44 hours, with pay for 48 hours; overtime pay ranging from one and one-fourth to double time; minimum legal basis for salaries; nine days sick leave with pay; four constitutionally guaranteed</p>	<p>holidays, with most firms supplementing this by allowing other traditional holidays; half-day off with pay during the summer months; 12-weeks maternity leave with full pay for female workers and wives of laborers, including free clinical care; insurance and retirement plans for practically all classes of workers; the right to organize, strike and boycott; job security requiring formal court proceedings to dismiss a worker; a month paid vacation for each 11 months worked; improvement by individual firms of working</p>	<p>hours in reducing work week to 40 and 35 hours with full pay; and during the last decade, payment of Christmas bonuses amounting to an additional month's pay.</p> <p>Bartes was accompanied by Reinaldo More, a refugee who was working with the underground at the time of the Bay of Pigs invasion; and Arturo Finlay, a former attache with the State Department in Cuba.</p> <p>Russian school children attend their classes regularly six days a week.</p>
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